



# THE PATH FORWARD:

## Structural Changes in the Texas Juvenile Justice Department

### New behavior management system – PBIS

Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) is an evidence-based behavior intervention program supported by decades of research in public schools, residential care mental health facilities and alternative discipline education settings. Research includes multiple efficacy studies and randomized controlled trial studies. Facilities utilizing PBIS have experienced:

- Reductions in disciplinary infractions
- Enhanced perception of safety
- Reductions in reported bullying behavior
- Improvements in academic achievement
- Improved school climate
- Reductions in physical restraints

### Repurpose Halfway Houses to Specialized Treatment

The number of state-operated TJJD halfway houses will decrease to eight in FY 2014. Halfway houses are being repurposed to meet the vital needs of TJJD youth.

**WILLOUGHBY HOUSE**  
Fort Worth

Mental Health Population, serving youth with mental health needs who are transitioning to the community.

**COTTRELL HOUSE**  
Dallas

**SCHAEFFER HOUSE**  
El Paso

General Programming to youth needing transition services. This includes specialized aftercare services, agency treatment programming, anger management, education services, certification and college courses, and employment readiness skills.

**AYRES HOUSE**  
San Antonio

Independent Living Preparation, providing long-term placement for older youth with disapproved homes. The program will emphasize GED preparation, credit recovery, certification and college courses, independent living and life skills, community service, vocational programming and employment opportunities.

**RON JACKSON**  
Brownwood

TJJD's Female Population. A former TJJD state residence building is being converted into a program focusing on education, independent living preparation and life skills, and specialized treatment will be offered as needed.

**MCFADDEN HOUSE**  
Roanoke

High-Need Alcohol and Other Drug services for low-risk male youth with residential AOD treatment needs and as a step-down program for youth transitioning from a secure facility with a residential AOD treatment need.

**YORK HOUSE**  
Corpus Christi

Parole Sanctions Program for youth with misdemeanor or technical violations. The program is designed to assess their readiness for change and address the reasons youth were unsuccessful on parole.

**TAMAYO HOUSE**  
Harlingen

Young Offender Program for younger youth eligible for medium restriction placement. This younger population generally has an identified AOD need.

### State Secure Facilities

**GAINESVILLE**

- Treatment for youth with high need for AOD treatment
- General offenders from the northern region
- Moderate level AOD treatment, sexual behavior treatment and mental health treatment

**RON JACKSON**

- TJJD Orientation and Assessment
- Gender-specific programming for females

**MART**

- High level Sexual Behavior Treatment and AOD Treatment
- Phoenix unit
- Mental Health Treatment Unit
- Vocational Career Academy

**GIDDINGS**

- Capital Serious and Violent Offender Treatment program
- Sexual Behavior Treatment and Alcohol and Other Drug programming for youth with high and moderate needs
- Vocational Career Academy

**EVINS**

- High level AOD treatment
- General offenders from South Texas counties

## Level Census at State Secure Facilities to Meet Realistic Staffing Capabilities

- National best practices and models for juvenile justice rehabilitation show better outcomes for youth in smaller settings
- The agency has entered into contracts with additional residential service providers who operate small facilities of 100 youth or less
- By increasing the number of youth in contract residential care, the agency can level off and reduce populations at larger TJJD high restriction facilities
- Reducing populations in concert with the planned changes for behavior and treatment programming will help to ensure better outcomes for TJJD facilities

## Establish Career Academies to Further Youth Life Skills, College, and Career Readiness

Career Academies are small, personalized learning communities within a school system designed for a subset of students to further college and career readiness. Identified TJJD youth who have earned their diploma and/or GED will have the opportunity to participate in career academies that will focus on specified employment tracks, industry certification, and college course offerings, via partnerships with community and higher education resources. Career Enhancement courses, offered on weekends, will provide additional instruction on employment soft skills and introduction to a variety of industry professionals.

- *Community partnerships with businesses and institutes of higher learning and technical/vocational instruction*

### WEEKEND SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION ENHANCEMENTS

- Offered at all facilities
- Classes can stand alone or be paired with other industry certifications to enhance marketability (OSHA, Logistics, Computer Aided Drafting, Customer Service)
- Saturday programs will also include guest lectures, career fairs, and tutoring sessions (Local Workforce Center, Past Successful Students, Professionals from Certification Tracks)
- Community partnerships with businesses and institutes of higher learning and technical/vocational instruction

## Redesigning Campus Design & Expectations

### TREATMENT READINESS PHASE

Newly arrived youth at each facility will participate in the Treatment Readiness Phase to prepare each youth for entry into treatment programs and facility expectations. Youth must earn their way out of this phase and into the general campus population

### HONOR DORMS

Youth who demonstrate a high level of achievement will earn entry into Honor Dorms to encourage their continued pursuit for excellence in programming and participation in treatment.

## Parole Division Redesign

Phase One of the redesign of parole services is focused on meaningful services and consistency across the state in the delivery of those services.

- *Accurate assessments of the needs and safety factors of those on parole*
- *Tailor conditions of parole to address safety factors and meet the individual needs of the youth*
- *Making parole a balance between surveillance and treatment*
- *Meaningful engagement of the family and community resources around the needs of the youth on parole*

### FURLOUGH REQUIREMENTS

- Forty-five day furlough system enacted to help evaluate youth's ability to function in community
- Youth must be incident free 30 days before the furlough period begins
- Electronic monitoring will be utilized during the first 30 days of furlough period. Youth can be returned for any infraction of their parole agreement. After any hearing, the Parole officer will now be able to swiftly react to youth for violations
- Level three hearings for all violations will create a true record of all violations should a Level One hearing be needed later

## Treatment Taskforce Goals

The Behavior Management and Treatment Task Force, established in December 2012, is working to enhance youth services, improve youth culture and create a meaningful treatment program that addresses individual youth needs while ensuring youth accountability and positive youth development. Subcommittees were established to encompass all areas of programming within state-operated programs and services:

- *Behavior Management*
- *Treatment Redesign*
- *Accountability*
- *Transition and Parole Services*
- *Training*

Early accomplishments of the committees include development and implementation of policies that allow for reduction of minimum length of stay for more youth as an incentive, stage demotion as a consequence for youth who engage in major rule violations, selection of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) as the agency's new behavior management model, establishment of a communication system to solicit staff input and provide feedback on progress of the task force, and development of oversight systems for use of electronic monitoring on parole.